

Message Text

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13-11

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3532

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, IN

SUBJECT: AZAD KASHMIR MINISTER ON OPENING KASHMIRI MISSIONS

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS, AZAD KASHMIR MINISTER RAJA MUMTAZ HUSSAIR RATHORE HAS CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF KASHMIRI MISSIONS IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES. JANUARY 4 PAPERS REPORT PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH RATHORE HELD IN RAWALPINDI ON HIS RETURN FROM MECCA WHERE HE HAD LED AZAD KASHMIR HAJ DELEGATION. MINISTER REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED HIS ACTIVITIES IN MECCA WHERE HIS GROUP MET MUSLIMS FROM INDIAN-HELD KASHMIR AND BANGLADESH, AND DISSEMINATED LITERATURE ON KASHMIR CONFLICT. RATHORE TOLD PRESS THAT FOREIGN MUSLIMS WITH WHOM GROUP MET REMAIN FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING KASHMIRI CAUSE, RANKING IT SECOND ONLY TO PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

2. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT OWNED PAKISTAN TIMES, RATHORE CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL KASHMIRI MISSIONS, SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE PLO, IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES TO "PROJECT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE DISPUTED STATE". (ONE ACCOUNT STATES MISSION WOULD WORK FOR LIBERATION OF KASHMIR.) MISSIONS, IF CREATED, WOULD PROJECT KASHMIR CAUSE AS PART OF THE PAKISTAN MOVEMENT. RATHORE TOLD PRESS THAT HE WOULD ASK AK PRIME MINISTER TO DISCUSS HIS PROPOSAL WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO.

3. EDITORIAL IN WIDELY CIRCULATED VERNACULAR JANG JANUARY 6

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ENDORSED RATHORE'S RECOMMENDATION AND SAID EFFORTS SHOULD BE

MADE TO MAKE WORKABLE THE PROPOSAL WHICH THEY CALLED VERY SIGNIFICANT. JANG COMPARED WIDE POPULAR KNOWLEDGE OF PALESTINIAN CONFLICT WITHIN MUSLIM WORLD WITH THAT OF KASHMIR DISPUTE (LITTLE KNOWN), AND BLAMED PAK GOVERNMENT FOR DOING NOTHING TO CORRECT SITUATION WHILE INDIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO MISLEAD ISLAMIC WORLD ABOUT KASHMIR.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TO US THAT RATHORE WAS SPEAKING ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND THAT NEITHER GOP NOR AZAD KASHMIR GOVERNMENT WOULD ENDORSE HIS VIEWS. (THIS IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED BY RATHORE'S TELLING PRESS THAT HE WOULD BEING UP MATTER WITH HIS GOVERNMENT AND BY MINIMAL PRESS PLAY PRESS CONFERENCE RECEIVED.) IT OCCURS TO US HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF THING WHICH CAN GET PICKED UP AND DISTORTED BY INDIAN PRESS AND THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY NEW DELHI TO RECOGNIZE IT FOR THE LITTLE IT ACTUALLY APPEARS TO BE.
BYROADE

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